

FACT SHEET U.S. Army Cyber Command

The Nation's Army in Cyberspace

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THE FACTS: THE CYBER DIRECT COMMISSIONING PROGRAM

What is direct commissioning?

Direct commissioning is an Army program that allows civilians with specific high-demand technical skills to join the Army as commissioned officers.

The Army has had direct commissioning programs for the medical and legal fields and chaplaincy for many years. In late 2017 it began offering direct commissions in the Cyber Branch as well, to attract qualified civilian programmers, software engineers, developers and data scientists to help the Army develop and execute programs and equipment to support its operations in cyberspace.

Typical applicants hold a four-year degree, master's degree or doctorate in a computer science or related field, such as data science or industrial control systems.

What skills is the Army seeking for the Cyber Direct Commissioning Program?

Some of the roles and skills the Army is looking for include:

Computer Scientist/Software Engineers Security Engineers
Data Scientists/Machine Learning Engineers DevOps Engineers
Full Stack Engineers Reverse Engineers

Front End Software Engineers Site Reliability Engineers (SREs)

Product Managers

Hardware Engineers (EE/Mechanical/RF/Wireless)

Network Engineers

Software Designers

Field Operations Specialists (Clandestine Capable)

Software Development Engineers in Test

What do Army Cyber Officers do?

Army Cyber officers collaborate to develop innovative solutions to the world's most complex security challenges and help the Army's Cyber Mission Force teams accomplish their missions. Some of their many tasks include:

 Assessing and communicating risks associated with complex large-scale cyberspace projects

ABOUT US: U.S. Army Cyber Command integrates and conducts full-spectrum cyberspace operations, electronic warfare, and information operations, ensuring freedom of action for friendly forces in and through the cyber domain and the information environment, while denying the same to our adversaries.

- Commanding and leading teams of Soldiers in defensive and offensive cyberspace operations
- Developing technical solutions to identify and mitigate security vulnerabilities
- Delivering designs and features for cutting-edge technologies
- Developing tool suites and frameworks and novel application techniques
- Identifying, testing and diagnosing performance issues and network components
- Performing security and technical assessments and design reviews
- Developing and creating high-performance software, systems and services

What are the requirements and training for the Cyber Direct Commissioning Program?

There six basic requirements and two training courses for direct commission into the Army Cyber Branch. Applicants must:

- Be United States citizens
- Be younger than 41 years of age
- Be able to obtain and maintain a Top Secret security clearance
- Have at least a four-year college degree
- Complete an Army physical and meet fitness standards for Army service
- Complete an application to become an Army officer
- Complete the Army's six-week Direct Commissioning Course and the 12-week
 Cyber Officer Basic Leadership Course

How long do officers commissioned under the program serve in the Army?

Officers must complete a total of eight years of service with at least three years on active duty, followed by service in the U.S. Army Reserve or Army National Guard.

How do I apply for the program or get more information?

More information on the program application process and links to the application form can be found at https://www.goarmy.com/army-cyber/cyber-direct-commissioning-program.html. Once an application is received, the applicant will be contacted for an interview and assistance with completing the application process.



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